

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 07294 110039Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----065322 110047Z /73
O 091610Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5947
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07294

EXDIS
C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SIGNATURE ELEMENT)
E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO OWEN

REF: STATE 117300

1. EMBASSY OFFICER DELIVERED SECRETARY'S LETTER TO JOHNNY GRAHAM MORNING OF MAY 9. GRAHAM SAID OWEN SHARED THE SECRETARY'S DESIRE TO DEVELOP TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GRAHAM/LOW MISSION. OWEN HAS CALLED FOR "PRECISION" IN THE TERMS SO THAT THE MISSION COULD ENGAGE IN SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS. GRAHAM IS DRAFTING A PIECE NOW WHICH HE WILL GIVE TO US WHEN IT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY.

2. COMMENT: GRAHAM DID NOT DISGUISE HIS OWN FRUSTRATION IN ATTEMPTING TO DRAFT A DETAILED PLAN FOR HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE PROSPECTS ARE BRIGHT FOR SERIOUS TALKS EITHER IN SALISBURY OR WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS. FOR THE MOMENT, NEITHER SIDE SENSES SUFFICIENT PRESSURE TO COMPROMISE ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES.

3. ONE FURTHER NOTE -- GRAHAM INDICATED THAT OWEN IS CONFIDENTIAL

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GIVING STRONG CONSIDERATION TO VARIOUS FORMULAS FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL WHICH WOULD SUBSTITUTE A "NEUTRAL CHAIRMAN" FOR THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, BELIEVING THAT THE REINTRODUCTION OF BRITISH AUTHORITY STANDS AS A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO AN AGREED SETTLEMENT. WE THINK FORMALLY SUGGESTING THIS IDEA TO THE PARTIES AT THIS STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE PREMATURE AND

LIKELY BE INTERPRETED BY THE FRONTLINE AS A FURTHER
INDICATION OF HMG'S DISILLUSIONMENT WITH ITS OWN PLAN. BREWSTER.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON07294
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780211-0864, D780196-0680
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780579/aaaacpkk.tel
Line Count: 64
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 208d2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 117300
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2750447
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO OWEN
TAGS: PDEV, PPDC, RH, UK, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (GRAHAM, JOHNNY), (OWEN, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/208d2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014